

## Individual Review Form

**Proposal number: 2001-I203-2**

**Short Proposal Title: Partnerships for Envir. Ed.**

**1a) Are the objectives and hypotheses clearly stated?**

Objectives of this project are clearly stated - both the overall and educational objectives.

Overall - fill gaps in the current environmental education resources available in San Joaquin Valley; assist teachers in understanding and teaching watershed stewardship; and increase awareness of ecological principles and environmental stewardship.

Educational - provide a regional curricula that supplements and expands on curricula currently available, teacher workshops, and field trip opportunities that focus on local watershed ecology.

No hypothesis is tested by this proposal which states that testing could occur at later stages of this project.

**1b1) Does the conceptual model clearly explain the underlying basis for the proposed work?**

Yes. Informed public will make sound choices and support responsible resource management; and an environmental education program that is linked to the standard school curriculum, provides opportunities for meaningful field trips, and includes supporting teacher education will be used by local teachers and school districts.

**1b2) Is the approach well designed and appropriate for meeting the objectives of the project?**

Grant would develop, expand and provide for continuation of existing environmental education in three geographic areas (San Joaquin River/Fresno, Grasslands Wetland Complex/Los Banos, and Tuolumne River/LaGrange).

**1c1) Has the applicant justified the selection of research, pilot or demonstration project, or a full scale implementation project?**

Yes, existing environmental education programs are in high demand in the targeted geographic areas and the partners cannot meet the current request for services.

**1c2) Is the project likely to generate information that can be used to inform future decision making?**

No. Additional teachers and students will be reached, but no new information will come out of this project that will change how environmental education is implemented.

Yes. New watershed ecology curriculum will be created and will have a regional focus. This curriculum will correspond with California Dept. of Education Subject Frameworks and will be available to teachers statewide for adaptation to other watersheds.

**2a) Are the monitoring and information assessment plans adequate to assess the outcome of the project?**

Monitoring and evaluation of field trip implementation and curriculum development will occur. The results will be used to adjust curriculum content, scheduling, staffing, content location, and other elements of field trip implementation.

**2b) Are data collection, data management, data analysis, and reporting plans well-described, scientifically sound and adequate to meet the proposed objectives?**

Annual report will show numbers of teachers and students participating and geographic area served.

Questionnaires, surveys, and oral interviews of teachers and volunteers will be used.

**3) Is the proposed work likely to be technically feasible?**

Yes, the proposed work builds on curricula and sites which already exist.

**4) Is the proposed project team qualified to efficiently and effectively implement the proposed project?**

The team is well qualified to implement this proposal. Two out of five have numerous years of classroom and school administrative experience. These two individuals are also heavily involved in the Central California Science Education Leadership Association and the California Regional Environmental Education Community. The other three members of the team have strong backgrounds and currently work in natural resource fields. Two of these three were heavily involved in establishing the Grasslands Environmental Education Center and are involved in the annual “Wild About Wetlands” and other education activities in the Los Banos area.

**Miscellaneous comments:** Support for this effort from multiple local groups, organizations and agencies. Firm commitments to cost share were not confirmed as of date of submittal of proposal however potentials is 50% of requested grant. Proposal is for a three year project.

**Overall Evaluation Summary Rating**

Excellent  
Very Good  
**X      Good**  
Fair  
Poor

**Provide a brief explanation of your summary rating:**

-Project will increase programs offered in San Joaquin Valley and meet demands for such programs.  
-Little discussion on how programs will impact future decision making by teachers or students participating in programs.